IEEE RFIC Double-Blind Reviewing Policy (Updated for RFIC 2026)

IEEE RFIC will continue the double-blind reviewing policy, ensuring anonymity for both authors and reviewers. This policy is designed to eliminate bias based on name recognition, institution, country, gender, or other identifying characteristics.

Key Principles

- Reviewers will not be informed of the authors' names, affiliations, or any identifying information.

- Authors must take all necessary steps to anonymize their submissions.

- Submissions violating these guidelines may be rejected without review.

- All prior work should be cited in the paper, including the author's own work (published or accepted for publication).

Required Anonymization Steps

1. Remove Identifying Information:
   - Eliminate author names, contact details, affiliations, and publicly known product names from the title, abstract, manuscript, cover page, and PDF metadata.
   - Remove logos from die photos, IC layouts, PCB images, and any other figures.
2. Cite Prior Work Properly:
   - Cite all relevant prior work, including your own, in the third person.
   ✅ Correct: "The design in [1] demonstrates…"
   ❌ Incorrect: "We demonstrated in [1]…"
   - Do not redact references. Author names may appear in the reference list. In particular, for one's own work, it is necessary to cite it in the references:
   - (NEW) Any work that is related to the submission and has been submitted to another conference/journal, but has not been published yet, must be cited in an anonymized format. The authors need to provide such material to RFIC **upon request**.
3. Avoid Acknowledgments and Funding References:
   - Do not include acknowledgments or mention funding sources. These can be added after acceptance.
4. (NEW) Do Not Contact Program Committee Members:
   - Contacting TPC members outside your organization about your submission is a direct violation and might result in paper rejection.
   - Only the TPC Chair/Vice Chair are aware of author identities. You may contact them for procedural questions.
5. Avoid Patent Citations:
   - Do not cite patents filed by the authors or their institutions.

6. Depersonalize the Work:
   - Use neutral language and avoid any phrasing that could reveal identity through inference.
7. (NEW) To preserve the integrity of the double-blind review process, authors are strongly advised to avoid publicizing their submission prior to the conclusion of the review period. Specifically:
   - Do not advertise the paper, including title or content, on personal or institutional websites, social media platforms, or through broad mailing lists. Presentations of submitted work to restricted audiences (e.g., internal seminars or invited talks) are permitted.
   - If a non-anonymized version of the paper is posted on a preprint server (e.g., arXiv) before the RFIC paper submission, the submitted version must not reference or link to the preprint. RFIC discourages active promotion of preprints on social media, personal websites, or in the press during the review period.
   - If a reviewer becomes aware of the authorship of a submission, they may be recused from reviewing the paper at the discretion of the Technical Program Committee (TPC) chairs.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

One of the most common misunderstandings of the double-blind review policy concerns the reference list at the end of the paper. The table below illustrates the correct and incorrect way of handling this, assuming that J. A. Doe and J. B. Doe are the names of you and your co-author:

✅ Correct handling of cited references	❌ Incorrect way of handling cited references
"This paper builds on the previous research of [2] by highlighting some of the recent advances…" [2] J. A. Doe and J. B. Doe, "Previous research: a review," in 2014 Int. Conf. on Writing Conf. Papers, Luckenbach, TX, USA, Jun. 2014, pp. 1721–1734. Use anonymous, third-person language when referring to your own work. Do not redact any references, including your own.	"In this paper, we build on our previous research [2] and highlight some of the recent advances…" [2] (Redacted – double blind), "Previous research: a review," in 2014 Int. Conf. on Writing Conf. Papers, Luckenbach, TX, USA, Jun. 2014, pp. 1721–1734. Do not use first-person language such as "we" and "our" when referring to your own work. Do not redact any references, including your own. [2] Reference deleted for double-blind review.

Additional Notes

- Submissions will undergo a software-based plagiarism check.
- A pre-publication check will be performed after paper selection to ensure compliance.
- Violations may affect acceptance, awards, and invitations to special issues.